BOROUGH OF HARWICH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Inspector

For the Year 1918.

HARWICH:

G. L. Jackson, Printer and Bookseller, Church Street.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF HARWICH.

GENTLEMEN, April, 1919.

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Harwich for the year 1918.

In accordance with the circular letter dated 16th January, 1919, issued by the Local Government Board, I have endeavoured to make the Report as short as possible.

Food Supply.

Slaughter-Houses :—Frequent inspections are made to the Slaughter-houses, particularly at times of slaughtering, for the purpose of examining the meat and condition of the premises. There are seven in the Borough : five on the Bathside, one in Newhaven Lane, and one in Lee Road, Dovercourt. All are kept in a cleanly condition.

I give below statement shewing foods surrendered as unfit for human consumption. All condemned foods are burnt at the Sewage Works.

Surrendered :—

Unsound frozen meat	...	6 cwt. 77 lbs.
Tuberculosis,		
Home-killed ...	2 Carcasses Beef with Offal.	
	1 Head	,,
	1 Lungs	,,

Arrangements made with the butchers to notify the Inspector of any abnormal conditions noticed in carcasses, appear to work satisfactorily.

Notifiable Diseases.

The figures relating to cases of Notifiable Diseases are given in Table 2 at the end of the Report.

I give below a statement as to the Infectious Diseases notified among troops stationed in the Borough :—

	Troops notified.		Troops removed to Borough Isolation Hospital.	
	1917	1918	1917	1918.
Diphtheria	6	2	6	2
Erysipelas	1	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	29	0	29	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	21	1	21	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	0	0	0
Measles	251	0	0	0
Chicken Pox	0	1	0	1
	309	4	56	4

The following table shews the number of cases of Infectious Diseases (excluding cases among troops) notified during the past three years :—

	1916	1917	1918.
Diphtheria	23	30	70
Erysipelas	5	2	1
Scarlet Fever	25	17	4
Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	3	3	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum... ...	2	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	17	16
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	3	3	7
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	3	4	0
Measles	68	38	325
German Measles	42	45	0
Chicken Pox	19	104	75
Puerperal Fever	1	1	0
Totals ...	210	266	501

Measles and Influenza.

There was a sharp outbreak of Measles in the Spring, fortunately of an uncomplicated type, only four deaths resulting from this disease out of a total of 325 notified.

In June and July there was an epidemic of Influenza of a mild uncomplicated type, followed in November and December by a recurrence of the same disease which was more widely spread and of greater severity, and complicated in numerous cases with pneumonia. As the disease was not notifiable there were no means of estimating the actual number of cases, but the deaths recorded as being due to Influenza amounted to 33 for the whole year.

Hospital Accommodation.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital is situate in Dovercourt There is accommodation for twenty-two patients in the Wards. Any cases of Infectious Diseases occurring amongst the Military are treated at this Hospital, and the War Department have erected an Annex with twenty beds for their accommodation. The regular staff consists of the Matron and two Nurses, whilst additional Nurses are obtained from the Ipswich Nurses' Home as occasion requires.

The Council have agreed to receive Military cases of Infectious Disease into the Borough Hospital. Four cases were so received during 1918.

The following Table gives the total number of cases treated at the Borough Hospital during the past three years :—

	1916.	1917.	1918.
Diphtheria	21	32	69
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	36	46	3
Enteric Fever	3	2	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	13	25	1
Chicken Pox	—	—	1
Measles	—	—	1
	73	105	76

One soldier affected with Mumps was treated during 1918. Six civilian Diphtheria patients died in Hospital.

Chemical and Bacteriological Work.

The Clinical Research Association carry out the examination of specimens for the Local Authority, including examinations for Tubercule, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever. This arrangement is largely taken advantage of by the Medical Practitioners of the Borough and seems to quite meet local requirements.

Water Supply.

The Town is supplied by the Tendring Hundred Water Company. Four samples of water from the public main were taken :—

No. 1 from Cottage occupied by Mr. Cant, at Blacksmith's Lane.
,, 2 ,, Rookery Farm, Upper Dovercourt.
,, 3 ,, The Gables, Dovercourt.
,, 4 ,, 41, Church Street, Harwich.

Nos. 1 and 3 were chemically examined.
,, 2 and 4 were bacteriologically examined.

The results were not altogether satisfactory, and the reports were referred to the Tendring Hundred Water Co. and the Local Government Board.

Zymotic Mortality.

There were sixteen deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases, excluding deaths amongst troops :—

Small Pox	Nil.
Measles	4
Scarlet Fever	Nil
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria and Croup ...	7
Enteric Fever	Nil
Diarrhœa	3
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	Nil
Total	16

Health Visitor's Report.

Shewing work done from January to December, 1918.

Number of Births notified	308
Stillborn	8
Refused admittance	7
Died before visiting	7
Visited	258
Visits made during 1st year	3105
Visits made during 2nd year	464
Visits made for Measles	93
Pre natal first visits	66
Pre natal total visits	130
Babies weighed	863

Feeding of Infants.

Breast	173
Glaxo	14
Nestles	4
Cow Gate	3
Cows' Milk	8
Breast and Glaxo	25
Breast and Cows' Milk	16
Breast and other foods	15

Infantile Mortality.

The rate per 1,000 of births registered for each of the past ten years is :—

1909	...	104	1914	...	130
1910	...	80	1915	...	108
1911	...	109	1916	...	68
1912	...	74	1917	...	62
1913	...	81	1918	...	75

Vital Statistics of the District.

Number of Births registered :—320

		Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	157	149
Illegitimate	...	6	8
		163	157

	Males.	Females.
Number of Deaths registered 184 :	98	86

The Registrar-General estimates the population of the Borongh for 1918 for Birth rate at 12,455
,, Death ,, ,, 11,116

In these calculations the presence of Troops is not taken into account.

Calculating the Death rate on the Registrar-General's figures of 11,116, and the Birth rate on his figures 12,455:—

Birth Rate, 25·7.

Death Rate 16·5.

TABLE I.

BOROUGH OF HARWICH.

Causes of Death during year 1918.

Civilians only.

Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.
Measles	1	3
Whooping Cough	—	2
Diphtheria and Croup	5	2
Influenza	10	23
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	6
Tuberculosis Meningitis	1	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—
Cancer Malignant Disease	2	6
Meningitis	—	1
Organic Heart Disease	4	5
Bronchitis	9	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	5	1
Parturition, apart from Puerpural Fever	—	1
Congenital Debility, etc.	5	4
Violence, apart from Suicide	4	2
Suicide	—	1
Other Defined Diseases	28	17
Causes, Ill-defined or unknown ...	1	—
	98	86
Deaths of Infants under 1 year ...	12	12
	Total	24

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during 1918.

Disease.	Total Civil and Mil.	Civilians.	Military.	Total removed to Hospital,
Diphtheria (including Membraneous Croup)	72	70	2	69
Erysipelas ...	1	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	4	4	—	3
Enteric Fever ...	1	1	—	1
Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	—	1	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	—	—	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	7	—	—	—
Puerpural Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	325	325	—	1
German Measles ...	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox ...	75	74	1	1

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER PORTER, M.D.,

Acting Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS, EDUCATION COMMITTEE, HARWICH.

GENTLEMEN,

I submit a very brief Report for 1918, in accordance with request of the Board of Education.

An account of the work done is set forth in the appended tables.

The Esplanade Infants' School was closed from March 14th to March 28th, owing to the outbreak of Measles.

The Upper Dovercourt Infants' School was closed from June 18th to July 8th, owing to an epidemic of Influenza.

All Council Schools were closed from November 11th to Dec. 2nd, owing to the severe epidemic of Influenza.

TABLE I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1st JANUARY, 1918, TO DECEMBER, 1918.

A. "CODE" GROUPS.

Age.	Entrants.					
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.
Boys ...	—	45	16	4	13	78
Girls ...	—	25	27	9	23	84
Totals...	—	70	43	13	36	162

Age.	Intermediate Group.	Leavers.					Grand Total.
	8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total	
Boys ...	46	40	8	—	4	98	393
Girls ...	67	29	9	—	12	117	
Totals...	113	69	17	—	16	215	

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE"

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years). (2)	Special Cases. (3	Re-examinations (*i.e.* No. of Children re-examined). (4)
Boys	—	12	—
Girls	—	4	—
Totals ...	—	16	—

TABLE II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1918.

Defect or Disease.		Code Groups.		Specials.	
		Number Referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
SKIN.	Malnutrition	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Uncleanliness				
	Head	,,	138	,,	2
	Body	,,	20	,,	Nil.
	Ringworm :				
	Head	17	Nil.	,,	,,
	Body	6	,,	,,	,,
SKIN.	Scabies	11	,,	,,	,,
	Impetigo	12	,,	,,	,,
	Other Disease	80	,,	,,	,,
EYE.	Defective Vision and Squint...	48	,,	,,	,,
	External Eye Disease ...	33	,,	,,	,,
EAR.	Defective Hearing	6	,,	,,	,,
	Ear Disease	14	,,	,,	,,
TEETH.	Dental Disease	Nil.	,,	,,	,,
NOSE AND THROAT.					
	Enlarged Tonsils	20	,,	,,	,,
	Adenoids	2	,,	,,	,,
	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	2	,,	,,	,,
	Defective Speech	Nil.	2	,,	,,
HEART AND CIRCULATION.					
	Heart Disease				
	Organic...	,,	3	,,	16
	Functional	,,	3	,,	,,
	Anæmia	,,	Nil.	,,	,,
LUNGS.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :				
	Definite	2	,,	,,	,,
	Suspected	Nil.	2	,,	,,
	Chronic Bronchitis	,,	3	,,	,,
	Other Disease	,,	12	,,	,,
NERVOUS SYSTEM.		,,			
	Epilepsy	,,	Nil.	,,	,,
	Chorea	,,	,,	,,	,,
	Other Disease	,,	10	,,	,,
	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis :				
	Glands	,,	22	,,	,,
	Bones and Joints... ...	,,	1	,,	,,
	Other Forms	,,	2	,,	,,
	Rickets	,,	3	,,	,,
	Deformities	,,	2	,,	,,
	Other Defects or Diseases ...	,,	10	,,	,,

TABLE III.—NUMERICAL RETURN OF ALL EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN IN THE AREA IN 1918.

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
BLIND. (Including partially blind.)		Attending Public Elementary Schools			
		Attending Certified Schools for the Blind			
		Not at School	1		
DEAF AND DUMB. (Including partially deaf)		Attending Public Elementary Schools			
		Attending Certified Schools for the Deaf			
		Not at School			
MENTALLY DEFICIENT.	Feeble Minded	Attending Public Elementary Schools	5		
		Attending Certified Schools for Mentally Defective Children			
		Notified to the Local (Control) Authority during the year		1	
		Not at School		1	
	Imbeciles.	At School			
		Not at School			
	Idiots.				
EPILEPTICS.		Attending Public Elementary Schools			
		Attending Certified Schools for Epileptics			
		Not a tSchool			
PHYSICALLY DEFECTIVE.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools... ...			
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children			
		Not at School		1	
	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Attending Public Elementary Schools		2	
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children			
		Not at School		1	
	Cripples other than Tubercular.	Attending Public Elementary Schools	7		
		Attending Certified Schools for Physically Defective Children			
		Not at School		1	
DULL OR BACKWARD.		Retarded 2 years ...	3	2	
		Retarded 3 years ...	1	1	

TABLE IV.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

CONDITION.	No. of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
	From Previous Year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing	Nil.	56	56	Nil.	Nil.		56	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Footgear										
Cleanliness of Head ...	,,	138	138	,,	,,			,,	,,	,,
Cleanliness of Body ...	,,	20	20	,,	138	138	Nil.	,,	,,	100
Nutrition	,,	40	40	,,	20	20	,,	,,	,,	100
Nose and Throat	12	24	36	,,	Nil.	Nil.	40	,,	,,	...
External Eye Disease ...	Nil.	33	33	,,	31	31	Nil.	5	,,	86·1
Ear Disease	5	9	14	,,	33	33	,,	Nil.	,,	100
Teeth	Nil.	120	120	,,	14	9	,,	5	,,	100
Heart and Circulation ...	,,	6	6	,,	120	120	,,	Nil.	,,	100
Lungs	,,	2	2	,,	Nil.	Nil.	3	3	,,	...
Nervous System	,,	Nil.	...	,,	,,	,,	Nil.	2	,,	...
Skin	,,	,,	...	,,	,,	,,	,,	Nil.	,,	...
Rickets	,,	3	3	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	,,	...
Deformities	,,	2	2	,,	,,	,,	3	,,	,,	...
Tuberculosis, Non-Pulmonary	,,	2	2	,,	,,	,,	Nil.	2	,,	...
Speech	,,	2	2	,,	,,	,,	,,	2	,,	...
Mental Condition	5	Nil.	5	,,	,,	,,	,,	2	,,	...
Vision and Squint	3	48	51	,,	,,	,,	,,	5	,,	...
Hearing	...	6	6	,,	48	3	48	Nil.	,,	94·1
Miscellaneous	...	Nil.	...	,,	6	Nil.	6	,,	,,	100
					Nil.	,,	Nil.	,,	,,	...
TOTAL	25	511	536	...	410	354	156	26	...	...

TABLE V.—INSPECTION, TREATMENT. ETC., OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.

(1) The total number of Children Medically Inspected (whether Code Group, Special or Ailing Child).	393
(2) The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for Treatment.)	197
(3) The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	253
(4) The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	30

MINOR AILMENT CLINIC.

Defects Treated from 1st January, 1918, to 31st December, 1918.

Nature of Case.	Number.
Ringworm	24
Scabies	11
Impetigo	12
Otorrhœa	14
Conjunctivis	15
Hordeolum	6
Blepharitis	12
Eczema	3
Sceptic Wounds	80
Tonsils and Adenoids	31
Defective Vision and Squint	48
Dental Defects	434
Total number of Attendances at :—	
Minor Ailment Clinic	2648
Surgical Clinic	62
Eye Clinic	96
Dental Clinic	474
Pediculi :	
Vermin	49
Nits	109

Miscellaneous.		
Visits preparatory to Medical Inspections	16	
Attending Routine Medical Inspections at Schools	16	
Attending Dental Inspections at Schools ...	8	
Routine Visits to Schools	84	
Number of Children Examined at Schools...	9074	
Number of Visits to Children's Homes ...	1461	
Number of Children Treated by X Rays for Ringworm	17	
Number of Mothers present at Medical Inspections	224	
Police Court Attendances	3	Number Fined.
	20 Shillings ...	1
	10 ,, ...	1
	5 ,, ...	2
	Cases Adjourned ...	1
	,, Remanded ...	1
	,, Postponed ...	1
	,, Withdrawn ...	1
	Ordered to Attend School	1

School Clinic Open Daily from 9 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

DENTAL INSPECTION.

Number of Children Inspected 1st Jan., 1918, to 31st Dec., 1918

Age.		Defects.				
		6 to 7.	7 to 9.	Other Ages.	Total.	Grand Total.
Teeth :—						
Perfect :	Boys ...	73	88	0	161	
	Girls ...	67	70	0	137	298
Decayed (requiring treatment)	Boys ...	93	150	35	278	
	Girls ...	92	121	85	298	576
Decayed (not requiring immediate treatment).	Boys ...	9	13	0	22	
	Girls ...	35	57	0	92	114

Number of Children Attended	434
Number of Attendances ...	454
Extractions	588
Fillings...	44
Applications of Nitrate of Silver	10
Temporary Dressings ...	10
Anæsthetics—Ethyl ... Chloride ...	12
Number of Children Absent	118
Number of Children refused Treatment	30
Number of Children left town	98
Private Treatment ...	20

R. J. PICKETT,
Dental Surgeon.

EYE CLINIC.

Total number of cases tested :—

Boys	...	17
Girls	...	30

Total number for whom Spectacles were provided—34.

Analysis of cases treated :—

	Boys	Girls
Hypermetropia ..	7	15
Single Astigmatic Hypermetropia	0	0
Double ,, ,,	0	4
Myopia	2	5
Single Astigmatic Myopia	0	0
Double ,, ,,	1	1
Mixed Astigmatism ...	2	0

The acuity of vision in each case is tested by Snellin's Test Type, and the error of refraction estimated by suitable lenses, the results being subsequently confirmed by retinoscopy. The necessary spectacles are then ordered, and the children are again examined with the spectacles on, to ensure that a correct fit is obtained. The parents are instructed to insist on the children wearing the spectacles, and to at once report the fact of any breakage or discomfort caused by their use. Whenever possible, a re-examination is made a few months afterwards in each case to make sure that the defective vision is perfectly corrected.

I have to thank the School Nurse, Miss Murphy, and the School Attendance Officer, Miss M. Kerry, for their help and co-operation in carrying out my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEX. PORTER,

Acting School Medical Inspector.